

MISCELLANY

Under this department are ordinarily grouped: News Items; Letters; Special Articles; Twenty-five Years Ago column; California Board of Medical Examiners; and other columns as occasion may warrant. Items for the News column must be furnished by the fifteenth of the preceding month. For Book Reviews, see index on the front cover, under Miscellany.

NEWS

Coming Meetings

American Medical Association, St. Louis, Missouri, May 15 to 19, 1939. Olin West, M.D., Secretary, 535 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois.

California Medical Association, Hotel Del Monte, May 1 to 4, 1939. George H. Kress, M.D., Secretary, 450 Sutter Street, San Francisco.

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Western Section, American Laryngological, Rhinological, and Otolological Society, Spokane, Washington, January 29, 1939. Frederic G. Sprowl, M.D., Medical Arts Building, Spokane, Washington, Chairman.

Medical Broadcasts*

Los Angeles County Medical Association

The radio broadcast program for the Los Angeles County Medical Association for the month of January is as follows:

Thursday, January 5—KECA, 10:45 a. m., The Road of Health.

Saturday, January 7—KFI, 9:00 a. m., The Road of Health; KFAC, 11:30 a. m., Your Doctor and You.

Thursday, January 12—KECA, 10:45 a. m., The Road of Health.

Saturday, January 14—KFI, 8:00 a. m., The Road of Health; KFAC, 11:30 a. m., Your Doctor and You.

Thursday, January 19—KECA, 10:45 a. m., The Road of Health.

Saturday, January 21—KFI, 9:00 a. m., The Road of Health; KFAC, 11:30 a. m., Your Doctor and You.

Thursday, January 26—KECA, 10:45 a. m., The Road of Health.

Saturday, January 28—KFI, 9:00 a. m., The Road of Health; KFAC, 11:30 a. m., Your Doctor and You.

Health of the Nation.—The United States Public Health Service has announced that influenza made its seasonal rise during the four-week period ending October 8. The increase was about 35 per cent over the number of cases reported during the corresponding period of last year. The increased prevalence was noted particularly in the South Atlantic and South Central areas.

Smallpox has taken a decided drop, the current incidence being about 70 per cent of that for 1937.

Epidemic poliomyelitis was at the lowest stage recorded for any similar period during the last decade.

Meningococcus meningitis shows the lowest incidence reports for the past ten years.

Typhoid fever was also at the lowest point recorded during recent years.

Diphtheria showed a rise of about 20 per cent, but the disease is low compared with average incidence for the years 1933-1937.

Scarlet fever showed a normal increase.

There is every indication that the year 1938 will record the best public health conditions that have ever been established in the United States.

* County societies giving medical broadcasts are requested to send information as soon as arranged (stating station, day, date and hour, and subject) to CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, 450 Sutter Street, San Francisco, for inclusion in this column.

Error in Reprint Order.—Through an oversight, an order for reprints of an article, "Vitamin D in Acne," which appeared in CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE in its issue of August, 1938, on page 127, was permitted to go to the printers without first securing the approval of the author, Merlin T.-R. Maynard, M.D., of San Jose. The reprints were later sent out by a pharmaceutical house, to the embarrassment of Doctor Maynard, to whom our regrets are expressed for the error.

Pacific Coast Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Dr. Alice Maxwell, member of the staff of the University of California Medical Center, has been named president-elect of the Pacific Coast Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology, the first woman to ever hold this position. The annual meeting of the society was held recently in Los Angeles.

Doctor Maxwell has been associate professor of obstetrics and gynecology for the past several years. She was graduated from the University at Berkeley in 1912, and three years later obtained her M.D. degree from the University's medical school. She has been a member of the medical school faculty since her graduation, and is now an acknowledged leader in her field.

The society to which Doctor Maxwell has been named the president apparent, includes obstetricians and gynecologists in Washington, Oregon and California, and has been established for seven years.

Lawrence Briefs Properties of Neutron Ray.—The formal introduction of a new and potentially powerful form of radiation into the field of medicine, to stand beside the x-ray and radium, is described by Dr. John H. Lawrence of the University of California Medical School in the Handbook of Physical Therapy of the American Medical Association, Chicago. The new radiation is provided by the neutron ray, a product of the University's cyclotron in Berkeley. Preliminary tests of the ray are now being made on human patients.

"For the first time the biologist and the physician have a penetrating form of radiation which behaves differently from any known quality of x-rays in its biologic effect," Doctor Lawrence said. "Whether the neutron ray will be relatively more destructive on one or more neoplasms (tumors) clinically, and will be a valuable aid in the therapy of neoplastic disease, only future work will tell.

"Modern developments in physics led to the induction of radio-activity in nearly all the elements and the production of a new form of biologically active and penetrating radiation—the neutron ray."

The radio-active substances produced by the cyclotron in addition to the neutron ray, and also found useful in different types of therapy, are likewise described by Doctor Lawrence in the article:

"Radio-active elements are 'tagged' atoms, but chemically they resemble their inactive relatives. Hence, study of their distribution after injection, by means of an electro-scope or a Geiger counter, gives fundamental information concerning the metabolism of the various elements. Furthermore, a new method of comparing normal and disease processes is made possible. The selective deposition of elements in tissues (phosphorus in bone, iodine in the thyroid) introduces a new method of selective irradiation and offers possibilities in therapy."

Pacific States Medical Executives' Conference.—A Western Medical Association, to serve as an advisory and study group for physicians in eight western states, was being formed in Portland, Oregon, on December 4, according to a United Press dispatch.

The organization, which is to represent Oregon, Utah, Washington, California, Nevada, Arizona, Idaho, and Wyoming medical associations, will iron out problems of prepaid medical fees and preventive medicine, the dispatch said.—Salt Lake City *Telegram*, December 7, 1938.

Venereal Disease Control Program.—Discussion of the venereal disease control program of the United States Public Health Service and possible action on new projects including studies of opium and quinine derivatives and the production and use of yellow fever vaccine featured the semi-annual meeting of the National Advisory Health Council at the National Institute of Health.

Dr. R. A. Vonderlehr, Assistant Surgeon-General in charge of the Division of Venereal Diseases of the United States Public Health Service, presented the Government's program for the control of venereal disease and comment on the progress which is being made in the various states with federal grants-in-aid.

The proposals regarding chemotherapy (studies centering around the opium and quinin derivatives) and the extension of virus diseases research to include laboratory studies of the production and use of yellow fever vaccine were presented by Dr. L. R. Thompson, Director of the National Institute of Health.

Members of the Council considered also a number of suggested coöperative studies to be carried on jointly by the National Institute of Health and scientists from various universities and research organizations.

Reports on the leprosy investigations in various parts of continental United States and in Honolulu, Hawaii, were presented, and discussion centered around the importance of such studies and the extent to which research should be carried on in the future.

Dr. Clifford E. Waller, Assistant Surgeon-General in charge of the Domestic Quarantine Division of the Public Health Service, presented for the consideration of the Council the proposed National Health Program, which includes an extension of public health facilities and improvements in medical care and hospitalization opportunities for people in all parts of the country, especially in those rural areas where the need is greatest.

The Council's attention was directed to the Hagerstown studies of health among children of school age, which are being directed by Dr. Thomas B. McKneely; and to the tuberculosis studies which are now in progress in Tennessee and Louisiana.

Dr. Thomas Parran, Surgeon-General of the United States Public Health Service, presided at the meeting, which was attended by the following members of the Advisory Council: Dr. Roger Adams, Department of Chemistry, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois; Dr. Eugene L. Bishop, Associate Professor of Preventive Medicine, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee; Dr. Lowell J. Reed, Dean, School of Hygiene and Public Health, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland; Dr. Ernest R. Gentry, Lieutenant Colonel (M.C.) United States Army, Washington, D. C.; Dr. Waller S. Leathers, Dean, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, Nashville, Tennessee; Dr. Roger I. Lee, practicing physician, Boston, Massachusetts; Dr. Esmond R. Long, Director, The Henry Phipps Institute, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Dr. Karl Fredrich Meyer, Director, Hooper Foundation for Medical Research, University of California; Dr. John R. Mohler, Chief, Bureau of Animal Industry, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.; Dr. Milton J. Rosenau, Professor of Public Health, University of

North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina; Dr. Wilbur A. Sawyer, Director, International Health Division, Rockefeller Foundation, New York, New York; Dr. Alfred Stengel, Professor, Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Dr. Charles S. Stephenson, Commander (M.C.) U. S. Navy, Washington, D. C.

Los Angeles Surgical Society.—The annual meeting of the Los Angeles Surgical Society was held on Friday and Saturday, December 9 and 10, 1938, with Dr. Owen H. Wangenstein of Minneapolis, Minnesota, as the guest speaker.

The program follows:

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

9 a. m.

Dry Surgical Clinic, Los Angeles County General Hospital
Owen H. Wangenstein

Pitfalls in Abdominal Surgery, Verne C. Hunt

12:30 p. m.

Luncheon—County Medical Building
1925 Wilshire Boulevard

2 p. m.

Gastrectomy and Gastro Duodenal Ulcers, E. C. Moore.
Mesenteric Thrombosis, Case Report, Charles W. Reeder.
Primary Hydatid Cyst of the Pleura, E. Vincent Askey.
Intraductal Papilloma and Carcinoma of the Breast, John W. Budd (by invitation).

The Status of Surgery in Angina Pectoris, Rupert B. Raney.
Repair of Laceration of Facial Nerves, Case Reports, Pierre Viole.

Vesico-Intestinal Fistula, Report of Case, Carl W. Rusche.

Recess, Ten Minutes

Carcinoma of the Thyroid, Case Report, C. T. Sturgeon.
Gas Bacillus Infection of the Abdominal Wall in Appendicitis, Case Report, Frank J. Breslin.

Sinus and So-Called Functional Nervous Disorders, F. M. Turnbull.

Intervertebral Disc Abscess Simulating Ruptured Nucleus Pulposus, G. H. Patterson.

Delayed Rupture of the Spleen, William H. Olds.

Bone Metastasis Following Carcinoma of the Breast, A. E. Gallant.

Surgical Drainage, Special Application of the Suction Principle, Rafe C. Chaffin.

Annual Formal Dinner—7 p. m.

California Club

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

9 a. m.

Dry Surgical Clinic, Los Angeles County General Hospital
Owen H. Wangenstein

Traumatic Diaphragmatic Hernia, with Motion Pictures,
H. E. Schiffbauer

12:30 p. m.

Luncheon—County Medical Building
1925 Wilshire Boulevard

2 p. m.

Intussusception of the Ureter, H. C. Bumpus, Jr.
Intraperitoneal Rupture of the Urinary Bladder, Case Report, J. Norman O'Neill.

Physiological Changes in the Leucocyte Count, A. H. Foord (by invitation).

Liver Abscess with Perforation, E. C. Palette.

Spindle Cell Carcinoma of the Thyroid, W. P. Kroger.

Malignant Melanoma of the Breast with Seven Year Follow-up, H. K. Bonn.

Traumatic Rupture of the Urethra, Case Reports, A. J. Scholl.

Ten-Minute Recess

Mortality in Obstructive Resection of the Colon, Clarence J. Berne.

Exophthalmic Goiter with Arterial Gangrene, Case Report, Harlan Shoemaker.

The Significance of Rectal Bleeding, Kenneth Smiley.
Granulomatous Infections of the Bone, Paul E. McMaster.

Familial Dermoid Cysts, Case Report, W. H. Brownfield.
Case of Right Para-Duodenal Hernia: Operation, Recovery, Donald Collins.

Mortality of Acute Perforation of Peptic Ulcer, Harold L. Thompson.

Formal Dinner Dance—7 p. m.

Wilshire Country Club

Fewer Deaths in California in 1938.—Records for the first six months of the present year indicate that the California general mortality rate for 1938 will be one of the lowest on record. Almost 5,000 fewer deaths were registered during the first half of 1938, as compared with the first half of 1937. The reduction is quite evenly distributed, all but ten counties of the state having contributed reduced numbers of deaths during the period studied. In Los Angeles County alone there were almost 2,000 fewer deaths during the first six months of this year, and in San Francisco there were 618 fewer deaths registered. In those interior counties of California, where migratory laborers have settled in large numbers, fewer deaths were recorded during the first half of 1938 than in the first half of 1937.

It would appear that this reduction is due, in part at least, to the absence of influenza in California during the early part of the calendar year. In 1937 influenza was widely prevalent and many deaths occurred during the early part of the year.

It would seem, however, that the population of this state is increasing rapidly. The increase in births is more than 11 per cent and the decrease in deaths is 12.5 per cent and the migration to California is extensive. If the present trend continues, the official United States census to be taken in 1940 will reveal a tremendous growth in the population of this state.

Following are the numbers of deaths registered in California counties during the first half of 1937 and 1938:

DEATHS
BY COUNTIES

County	Jan. to June, Inc. 1938	1937
Alameda	3,090	3,176
Alpine		
Amador	39	50
Butte	295	326
Calaveras	47	63
Colusa	74	82
Contra Costa	348	438
Del Norte	28	32
El Dorado	62	75
Fresno	935	982
Glenn	61	57
Humboldt	290	340
Imperial	336	415
Inyo	33	41
Kern	655	717
Kings	163	222
Lake	47	74
Lassen	62	61
Los Angeles	14,551	16,545
Madera	122	135
Marin	247	283
Mariposa	15	24
Mendocino	230	286
Merced	227	248
Modoc	43	36
Mono	9	6
Monterey	318	343
Napa	343	408
Nevada	118	129
Orange	793	750
Placer	207	221
Plumas	52	79
Riverside	570	643
Sacramento	1,002	1,178
San Benito	64	67
San Bernardino	1,034	1,175
San Diego	1,583	1,773
San Francisco	4,379	4,997
San Joaquin	915	1,141
San Luis Obispo	218	204
San Mateo	448	529
Santa Barbara	429	461
Santa Clara	1,170	1,275
Santa Cruz	311	304
Shasta	118	152
Sierra	19	11
Siskiyou	160	144
Solano	182	262
Sonoma	455	541
Stanislaus	364	397
Sutter	84	106
Tehama	104	102
Trinity	29	23
Tulare	470	533
Tuolumne	84	92
Ventura	285	383
Yolo	167	177
Yuba	108	153
Totals	38,592	43,467

Conference of Hospital Administrators in Seattle, February 19 to 23, 1939.—Administrators of 1,350 hospitals, located in the ten Western States, British Columbia, Alaska, and Hawaii, have been invited to Seattle, February 19 to 23, to study and discuss the colossal problem of health care.

With the nation agog over health and hospital insurance, socialized and subsidized medicine and hospitalization, with the next Congress preparing to act upon a national health program affecting every citizen and his family, the Seattle meeting promises unusual and timely interest.

The meeting is the thirteenth annual convention of the Association of Western Hospitals, allied with which the Western Conference, Catholic Hospital Association, the Washington, Oregon, and California state hospital associations, and the American College of Hospital Administrators will be in session.

"The Part of the Hospital in this Growing Program of Health Care," the convention theme, will be approached from every angle of consideration, and many eminent hospital authorities and medical doctors will discuss its phases.

At the same time, taking advantage of the assemblage of hospital and medical men from this wide area, most leading makers and distributors of hospital and clinical apparatus and equipment for treating disease, maladjustments and fractures, will display exhibits in a miniature hospital world's fair.

"Guard Against Syphilis."—"Guard Against Syphilis" is the slogan of National Social Hygiene Day to be observed throughout America on February 1. The day will be marked by some 5,000 meetings to highlight present community campaigns against syphilis and will focus public attention on vital next steps in the conquest of syphilis, according to Dr. Walter Clarke, executive director of the American Social Hygiene Association.

Evidences of interest in the forthcoming event, the third annual observance in the current attack on syphilis, point to a larger nation-wide demonstration than those of previous years, Doctor Clarke said. The Association's offices in New York as well as San Francisco report increased activity and interest on the part of official and voluntary health and welfare agencies, civic groups, service clubs, women's organizations, churches, schools, and upward of one thousand youth bodies.

Defining the objectives of the 1939 attack in terms of the slogan, these points were said to underly present national, state-wide and community planning in social hygiene:

Guard against syphilis by telling the American people about this dangerous disease—how it can be prevented and cured.

Guard against syphilis in youth, the age of greatest incidence, by strengthening the efforts of church, home, and school to provide better facilities for sex education, character development, and preparation for marriage; and by correcting community conditions which threaten the health and welfare of young people.

Guard against syphilis in marriage and childhood by encouraging good laws—and their observance—requiring examinations for all those about to marry and for all expectant mothers.

Guard against syphilis by attacking prostitution and quackery, two arch-accomplices of the disease.

Guard against syphilis by supporting adequate voluntary and official health programs, both state and local.

As in years past, press and radio aid will be sought in cultivating public interest in Social Hygiene Day and its objectives. The American Social Hygiene Association, 50 West Fiftieth Street, New York, is offering posters, envelope enclosures, a special tabloid newspaper for free mass distribution, and a complete kit of publicity and program aids for program planners.

The United States Public Health Service is again co-operating.

American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology.—The general oral, clinical, and pathological examinations for all candidates, Part II Examinations (Groups A and B), will be conducted by the entire Board, meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, on May 15 and 16, 1939, immediately prior to the annual meeting of the American Medical Association. Notice of time and place of these examinations will be forwarded to all candidates well in advance of the examination dates.

Candidates for reexamination must request such reexamination by writing the secretary's office before the following dates: Part I—January 1, 1939; Part II—April 1, 1939. Candidates who are required to take reexaminations must do so before the expiration of three years from the date of their first examination.

Application for admission to Group A, May, 1939, examinations must be on file in the secretary's office by March 15, 1939.

Application blanks and booklets of information may be obtained from Dr. Paul Titus, Secretary, 1015 Highland Building, Pittsburgh (6), Pennsylvania.

National Advisory Cancer Council.—Dr. James B. Murphy, Chief of the Cancer Research Division of the Rockefeller Institute, New York, and Dr. Mont Rogers Reid, Director of Surgical Service of the Cincinnati General Hospital and Professor of Surgery at the University of Cincinnati, were recently named as new members of the National Advisory Cancer Council for three-year terms.

The appointments were announced by Surgeon-General Thomas Parran of the United States Public Health Service, who is ex-officio chairman of the Cancer Council. The new members of the Council succeed Dr. Francis Carter Wood, Director of the Crocker Institute of Cancer Research, Columbia University, and Dr. James Ewing, Director of the Memorial Hospital, New York, both of whom were named as original members of the Council on October 16, 1937.

Continuing members of the Cancer Council are President James B. Conant of Harvard University, who is an authority on chemistry; Dr. Arthur H. Compton of the University of Chicago, a Nobel prize-winner in physics; Dr. C. C. Little, Managing Director of the American Society for the Control of Cancer; and Dr. Ludvig Hektoen of Chicago, former director of the John McCormick Institute for Infectious Diseases, who is serving as executive director of the National Advisory Cancer Council.

The Cancer Council shares with the Surgeon-General responsibility for the policies and activities of the National Cancer Institute Act, with particular regard to grants-in-aid.

"The National Cancer Institute Act is a new type of Government service for all the people," Surgeon-General Parran declared in commenting on appointments to the Council. "Through it the Government is able to offer concrete help, not only to the official agency, but also to the private scientific institution, or the accredited individual, in order to speed progress toward a scientific goal."

The stakes of victory against cancer are so high and the hope of every American family in that victory is so pathetically earnest, in the opinion of the Surgeon-General, that every effort must be made to close in on this enemy of mankind.

"The work of the National Cancer Institute is a test of the capacity of Government to lead through service. I believe that the results to date are showing additional evidence of the capacity of men of science to work together and profitably for the solution of their great common problems. In the Institute we have a new vantage point and a new hope of success for our attack on cancer," Surgeon-General Parran concluded.

Medical Vacancies in California.—There is a scarcity of medical men in California, so that is why the State Personnel Board let down the bars of residence requirements today as it sought to qualify some eighty professional men.

Instead of having resided in the state for one year, any man in the United States may take the examinations to be held on January 5, it was announced by Louis J. Kroeger, executive officer of the Board.

The state is seeking to qualify fifteen physicians and internists, ten eye, ear, nose and throat physicians, and twenty-five junior physicians.

Salaries ranged from \$100 to \$200, plus maintenance.—*Pittsburgh Post-Dispatch*, December 5, 1938.

California Leaders to Map Paralysis Drive.—With Joseph M. Schenck, Vice-President of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis and General Chairman for California, presiding, four hundred leaders in Southern California civic affairs recently assembled at the Biltmore Hotel for a luncheon at which plans were formulated for the infantile paralysis drive which starts in January.

Adding significance to the occasion will be the presence of several Northern California drive leaders, including Attorney-General-Elect Earl Warren, Chairman for Northern California; Mayor Angelo Rossi of San Francisco, Chairman for San Francisco, and George Baker, San Francisco director of organization.

Speakers will include Al Jolson, master of ceremonies; Mayor Fletcher Bowron, Louis B. Mayer, and Governor-Elect Culbert D. Olson. Also taking a prominent part in the plans will be Southern California drive leaders, headed by Joseph Scott, Southern California chairman; Sheriff Eugene Biscailuz, Los Angeles County chairman, and Prentiss Moore, Los Angeles City chairman.

Official announcement will be made at the luncheon of the new plan whereby 50 per cent of all funds raised by each community will remain in the community for local relief distribution.

The Advisory Committee for the drive includes Norman Chandler, Dr. Harlan G. Shoemaker, Victor H. Rossetti, Mrs. James K. Lytle, and the Right Rev. W. Bertrand Stevens, Episcopal Bishop of Los Angeles.

American Board of Ophthalmology.—The American Board of Ophthalmology announces an important change in its method of examination of candidates for the Board's certificate.

Examinations will be divided into two parts. Candidates whose applications are accepted will be required to pass a written examination which will be held simultaneously in various cities throughout the country approximately sixty days prior to the date of the oral examination.

The written examination will include all of the subjects previously covered by the practical and oral examinations.

Oral examinations will be held at the time and place of the meeting of the American Medical Association and of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology, and occasionally in connection with other important medical meetings. The oral examination will be on the following subjects: external diseases; ophthalmoscopy; pathology; refraction; ocular motility; practical surgery.

Only those candidates who pass the written examination and who have presented satisfactory case reports will be permitted to appear for the oral examination.

Examinations scheduled for 1939—Written: March 15 and August 5. Oral: St. Louis, May 15; Chicago, October 6.

Applications for permission to take the written examination on March 15 must be filed with the secretary not later than February 15.

Application forms and detailed information should be secured at once from Dr. John Green, Secretary, 6830 Waterman Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri.

M. D. License Plates.—After January 1, New York State physicians will no longer need distinguish their cars by special insignia. Police and public alike will instantly be able to spot those devoted to medical duty by their license plates.

At the request of the State Medical Society, the Department of Motor Vehicles will make available ten thousand of these standard designations for the use of automobiling doctors. Replacing the ordinary plates, they substitute "M. D." for identifying letters; are numbered from one to 9,999. They entail no other cost than the usual license fee.

The plates are available only to active practitioners. Each applicant for them must be certified by a county medical society, whether he is a member or not.

Life Insurance Policies.—There are sixty-four million Americans wise enough to carry life insurance for the benefit of themselves or their dependents.

These policies average \$1,725 each, showing that millions of small amounts are carried, as well as the immense sums for which the comparative few are insured.

These facts were reported at the convention of the Association of Life Insurance Presidents in New York recently.

This year, said Julian Price, Chairman of the Association, policyholders and beneficiaries will receive about \$2,600,000,000 from the companies—\$975,000,000 in death claims and the remaining \$1,635,000,000 to living policyholders as matured investments, annuities, surrendered values, policy dividends, and disability payments.

By the end of the year it is estimated that the amount of life insurance in force will amount to the stupendous sum of \$11,300,000,000—the largest amount in history.

That so many Americans are insured, and for so much, is a notable exercise of common sense on their part.

Stillbirths in California.—There has been a fairly consistent downward trend in stillbirths during recent years in California. In 1937 there were 2,130 stillbirths recorded, giving a rate of 22.6, which is the lowest stillbirth rate ever recorded in California. In 1936 there were 1,997 stillbirths recorded, giving a rate of 23.6 per 1,000 total births. In 1920 there were 2,059 stillbirths recorded, with a rate of 30.6.

The following table gives the number of stillbirths, together with rates from 1920 through 1937:

Year	Total Births	Stillbirths	Rate Per 1,000 Live Births
1920	69,257	2,059	30.6
1921	74,642	2,204	30.4
1922	75,541	2,220	30.3
1923	82,634	2,397	29.8
1924	89,488	2,589	29.8
1925	87,667	2,175	25.4
1926	84,690	2,318	28.1
1927	86,533	2,219	26.3
1928	86,063	2,420	28.9
1929	83,881	2,383	29.2
1930	86,809	2,427	28.7
1931	83,885	2,332	28.6
1932	80,261	2,153	27.6
1933	77,261	2,032	27.0
1934	80,316	1,874	23.9
1935	82,188	1,966	24.5
1936	86,457	1,997	23.6
1937	96,416	2,130	22.6

Although 88.8 per cent of the population of California, in 1930, consisted of members of the white race, they contribute a smaller proportion of both births and stillbirths. Mexicans, who, in 1930, constituted 6.4 per cent of the population, contribute almost 15 per cent of the births and 19 per cent of the stillbirths.

More stillbirths are recorded among males. During recent years, the average of males to females born alive is 105 to 100, but there are 128 males stillborn to each 100 females. While it is possible that some of these ratios may be changed, there is sufficient evidence to state that the ratio of males to females in California is higher among stillborn infants than among infants born alive.

Third International Cancer Congress.—This Congress will be held under the auspices of the International Union Against Cancer, in Hadden Hall Hotel, Atlantic City, New Jersey, on September 11 to 16, 1939.

Membership in the Congress is secured by application to the secretary-treasurer, with remittance of \$15. Make checks payable to the Third International Cancer Congress and mail to Dr. Donald S. Childs, 713 East Genesee Street, Syracuse, New York.

Membership in the Congress does not include the right to present a paper unless the paper or an abstract has been submitted to and been approved by the Program Committee. All papers must be read in person by the author. In no case will a paper be accepted without an abstract. The Program Committee reserves the right to reject any paper without recourse. All papers and abstracts, as well as any questions pertaining to them, should be addressed to Professor Francis Carter Wood, President, Third International Cancer Congress, 630 West 168th Street, New York, N. Y.

Projection will be provided for lantern slides in the standard sizes, such as American 3¼ by 4 inches, English 3¼ by 4¼ inches, and Continental 8½ by 8½ or 9 by 12 centimeters. Facilities for the projection of 16 and 35 millimeters film will also be available. Projectoscopes for showing full size roentgenograms will be provided by the firms of Carl Zeiss and E. Leitz.

The proposed sections are as follows: General research; biophysics; genetics, general pathology of cancer; surgery; radiological diagnosis; radiotherapy; statistics; and education. Further details concerning section chairmen, committees, etc., will be announced later.

Experiments Show Hemorrhages Due to Calcium Lack.—The first recorded correlation of certain types of paralysis in animals to a calcium-deficient diet, is reported by the department of biochemistry of the University of California. The paralysis is of hemorrhagic origin, possibly akin to certain brain hemorrhages in man.

It has been known for some time that, with a low blood calcium, human subjects and many animal species develop the convulsive condition known as tetany. The more profound and complex condition of paralysis, however, has not been attributed to a deficiency of calcium heretofore, despite the fact that it has been observed often in nature, among browsing animals.

Nutritional surveys have shown that calcium is the most common deficiency in the American diet, and, as a result, scientists have concentrated on the study of this element for the past twenty years. It is most readily supplied by eggs, beans, milk, cheese, almonds, and a number of other food products.

The authors of the study observed that a profound neurological disturbance develops in growing rats maintained on diets very low in calcium, which had heretofore not been associated with a deficiency of calcium. The neurological picture, which is quite complex, is suggestive of a diffuse lesion involving the cortex, basal ganglia, spinal cord, and peripheral nerves. When the injury was not too advanced, recovery was hastened by feeding the animals a control diet.

The study was made by Dr. David M. Greenberg, Associate Professor of Biochemistry, Muriel D. D. Boelter, graduate student in biochemistry, and Dr. Benjamin W. Knopf, a physician. A report is to appear in the magazine *Science*, the official organ of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Better Education of Drivers and Road Etiquette at Base of Accident Prevention.—Universal adoption of a road etiquette that has in it certain well-justified taboos will probably do more to avert highway accidents than any means now being employed, Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur, Presi-

dent of Stanford University, advises the California Safety Council.

In a safety message to President Fred D. Parr of the state-wide accident prevention agency, Doctor Wilbur, himself a Safety Council director, says:

"The history of mechanical contrivances in industry and in transportation is that they have always at the beginning had a high accident rate. With the application of safety devices and the education of employees, marked reductions in such accidents have been the rule. In connection with the high speeds possible with modern automobiles and modern roads there have been improvements in the brakes, in the steering devices, and in the durability of all parts of the automobile.

"There can still be marked improvements in the roads in the illumination of all highways, in automobile lights, signs, etc.; Doctor Wilbur continued, "but all of these will be futile unless the drivers can be trained. With a new crop of drivers each year, and with increasing consumption of alcohol, a continuation of the accident problem is inevitable. I think that we must attack every weakness, but particularly educate the drivers in the dangers involved. Also we must develop an etiquette of the road which will be universally accepted.

"Taboos have controlled human conduct for untold centuries. If we can get a road etiquette established that has in it certain well-justified taboos, I believe we can increase the safety of our highways materially."

Pneumonia Exhibit at Golden Gate International Exposition.—While men and women throughout the world celebrated another anniversary of a war armistice, scientists revealed completion of a brilliant "medical armistice" against pneumonia.

From officials of the Golden Gate International Exposition, announcement came that a New York laboratory has finally completed preparation of tested, effective anti-serums for each one of the thirty-two types of pneumonia germs. The almost miraculous curative serums will be distributed this month to strategically placed depots throughout the United States.

San Francisco has been selected as one of these distributing centers.

The first public demonstration of the thirty-two anti-pneumonia serums will be made to the public next year in an exhibit sponsored by the Lederle Laboratories of New York for the San Francisco Fair's Hall of Science. This was reported by Dr. Milton Silverman, Director of the Hall of Science, following receipt of plans for the Lederle display.

"For centuries," Doctor Silverman said, "pneumonia has consistently ranked among the top four killers. Until only a few years ago, this terrible infection baffled scientists and physicians who attempted to find some curative method.

"Only recently, laboratories gave us the first hope that a serum might be able to battle pneumonia. The hope was pretty slim, since there are known to be at least thirty-two types of pneumonia germs, and each type requires a specific anti-serum."

In the last few months, it was pointed out, these specific anti-serums were developed for four types of pneumonia microbes, then seven, then eleven, and now, for all thirty-two.

It is expected development and proper distribution of the curative agents will cut pneumonia mortality down to nearly the vanishing point.

"Proper usage of the serums," Doctor Silverman emphasized, "depends almost entirely on coöperation between the physician and the patient. The longer the patient delays calling his physician the less the efficacy of the serum."

Other features to be presented in the Lederle exhibit next year include a demonstration of the cause, spread, diagnosis, and treatment of pneumonia, and a demonstra-

tion of the methods used to determine the type of a pneumonia infection and to select the proper serum.

Seek Law to Bar Epileptic Drivers from Highways.

The state of California, through its Department of Public Health, is to inaugurate legal action to forbid the operation of motor vehicles by persons suffering from epilepsy, in an attempt to cut down the numerous accidents caused by physically unfit drivers. This was announced recently by Dr. Walter M. Dickie, Director of the Department, in a communication to the University of California Medical Center. According to Doctor Dickie, the legislation will be presented at the next session of the Legislature.

Under the present law it is not possible for any hospital or private physician to report cases of epilepsy to the department, although both are known to be receiving numerous complaints about epileptic drivers. According to a number of medical authorities, the epileptic in many cases is not aware of his condition. Cases have been known where the epileptic driver lapsed into unconsciousness at the wheel of a car, caused an accident thereby, and then recovered his senses without having been in any way aware of the lapse. It has thus been impossible to place responsibility for a number of accidents.

According to Doctor Dickie it is the plan of the department to have the reported cases submitted to the State Division of Motor Vehicles so that the division may have opportunity to keep a constant check on epileptic drivers. There is no intention on the part of the department to keep epileptics out of automobiles, he said, as such recreation may be beneficial to them. The only intent is to keep them from driving motor vehicles while suffering from their complaint.

Present motor-vehicle regulations provide that the applicant for a license must state whether he is suffering from a physical disability of any kind. But many epileptics either evade this or attribute their disorder to indigestion or other complaint in a nondisabling class, officials of the division say. There is no way to compel a correct answer, and some other means must be found for the state to meet the situation.

Initiative Costs in November Election Told.—Sacramento, December 9.—Nearly \$1,000,000 was spent during the August primary and November general election campaigns in support and opposition to the twenty-five propositions appearing on the ballot, according to statements filed today with Frank C. Jordan, Secretary of State.

The exact amount expended was \$945,063, with only a few small statements outstanding, Jordan reported.

Opponents to the Labor Initiative No. 1 on the November ballot spent \$100,000, and organizations supporting the defeated measure expended more than \$300,000, Secretary of State Jordan reported. . . .

Proposition No. 2

Chief expenditures against No. 2, the Humane Pound Act, were: B. C. Raulston, M.D., and George D. Maner, M.D., Los Angeles, \$5,314; California Medical Association, \$14,423; California Society for Promotion of Medical Research, \$29,545. Favoring the Act were the California Citizens' Committee, \$3,189; California Committee, \$12,077. The Act was defeated.

Press Clippings.—Some news items from the daily press, on matters related to medical practice, follow:

Another Medical Initiative

Free Hospitals Sought

Creation of a state commission of nine members to control services in all state hospitals and physicians using them so the public can use them without charge is proposed in an initiative measure the Attorney General's office at Sacramento was yesterday asked to title.